

# Responding

## *Night* chapters 3 through 5

### Personal Response

When he arrives at Auschwitz and then at Buna, Wiesel describes scenes he will never forget. What scenes, ideas, or feelings from the memoir do you find unforgettable?

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### Analyzing Literature

#### Recall and Interpret

1. Describe the conditions first at the Birkenau reception center, then at Auschwitz, and later at Buna. How does Wiesel's relationship with his father change during this time?

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2. What events lead to the two hangings Wiesel describes? How does Wiesel feel about his evening meal after each hanging? What do his reactions suggest about how he is changing?

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3. What are some ways that Wiesel and the other Jews at the camps try to observe their religion? How have Wiesel's feelings about God changed since his captivity began?

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# Responding

## Night chapters 3 through 5

### Analyzing Literature (*continued*)

#### Evaluate and Connect

4. In the camps, Wiesel must struggle to stay alive and to remain human. In your opinion, how well does he succeed with his struggles?

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5. There are several discussions about resistance by the prisoners. Why do you think there was no large scale effort to resist?

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### Literature and Writing

#### Persuasive Essay

On Yom Kippur, the day of atonement, Jews traditionally fast to show God that they are sorry for their sins and to ask forgiveness. Only those over the age of thirteen and those who are healthy must fast. The imprisoned Jews discuss whether or not fasting is appropriate under the life or death conditions of the camp. Reread and consider your **Focus Activity** on page 16. Write a short essay on whether the prisoners should fast.

### Extending Your Response

#### Literature Groups

Throughout this section, Wiesel uses language related to death, darkness, night, and decay to convey the horrors around him. In your groups, divide up the section's text. Reread to identify examples of this recurring language. Then discuss the images this language evokes. Create some simple drawings of these images and exchange them with group members. As a class, discuss the overall effect of Wiesel's language.

#### Science Connection

Wiesel says he had become "a starved stomach." Try to estimate how much food a fifteen-year old needs to thrive and grow. Read about calories as a measure of energy consumed and expended. Identify caloric amounts in some common foods. Make a list of what Wiesel may have eaten on any given day. Determine how many calories Wiesel was consuming a day and compare his diet to that of an average fifteen-year old.



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